

your constituents to your politics.' His 'constituents,' indeed, were sorely perplexed by the behaviour of their candidate.

*From Sarah Disraeli.*

You can imagine the astonishment and consternation of old and young Wycombe. Huffam [Disraeli's chief supporter] is in a great fright that you are going to betray him by proving yourself a Tory after he has for so many months sworn to all Wycombites that you were not one. What will happen ? I should be sorry to give up the plan of regenerating Wycombe and turning them all unconsciously into Tories.

' You are probably acquiring an European name,' writes his father in the same connexion, 'but invention and imagination are not the qualities for a representative of our modern patriots.'

High Wycombe, or Chopping Wycombe, as it was alternatively called, a few miles from Bradenham on the London side, was a typical close borough of the time before the Reform Act, returning to Parliament two members whose election rested exclusively with the Corporation and burgesses. The sitting members were the Hon. Robert Smith, the son and heir of the local magnate, Lord Carrington, and Sir Thomas Baring, both supporters of the Grey Ministry. When Disraeli began to cast eyes on the borough there was the possibility of an election with the old constituency owing to a dissolution in the course of the struggle over the Reform Bill, and there was also the certainty of an election with the new constituency, and at no distant date, if the Reform Bill passed. The Royal assent was given to the Bill on June 7, and a few days before Disraeli posted down from London to begin his canvass. 'I start on the high Radical interest,' he wrote to Austen, 'and take down strong recommendatory epistles from O'Connell, Hume, Burdett, and *hoc genus*. Toryism, is worn out, and I cannot condescend to be a Whig.' Edward Bulwer, himself a member of Parliament and a